



PUPPETS RAISE A SMILE

Entertainment galore at the Deloraine Show

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Meander Valley Gazette

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December 2016

Meander Valley Gazette Your independent community paper

Pets On Show!



Photo by: Mike Moores

Anyone would be forgiven for thinking that Westbury had become the centre of the universe, with two major events being staged on the same day. Pearn's Steamworld Festival and the Westbury Show vied for supremacy by providing first class shows that attracted a record number of visitors, (Pearn's 4,000 and Westbury Show 3,500). Pictured above, Kate Clark aged 4 of Hagley with Lizzie Lizard (a skink) who won first prize for being best pet handler in the pet parade at the Westbury Show.

Pearn's win the big prize

By Heather Summers

PEARNS STEAMWORLD was recognised at the Tasmanian Community Achievement awards, winning the Fonterra Australia

Agriculture Award.

"To receive an agricultural award at this level is absolutely tremendous recognition for a project whose foundations started 60 years ago," said event organiser

Gerard Gelston.

At the time of presentation, Pearn's Steam World was also celebrating its annual 'Steam Up' with a special 'Fergie Muster'. The Fergie Muster

exceeded all expectations on the November long weekend. The predicted 20-30 Little Grey Fergie tractors swelled to a staggering 96 on the day, filling the venue and delighting visitors of all ages.

The streets of Westbury were filled with a convoy of Ferguson trac-

tors in a grand parade, celebrating 70 years since the little grey tractor went into production.

A wide variety of Fergies were represented, the oldest being a 1948 model, contrasted by a brand new MF7715 Massey Ferguson tractor.

Tractors came from as far away as Smith-

ton and Geeveston, with one group of enthusiasts driving their tractors from Wynyard to participate.

Plans are already underway organising the 2017 feature, which will celebrate the 100th birthday of Ford tractors.

Picture on Page 4...

In My Opinion...

By Joanne Eisemann
Managing Editor

IT'S AT THIS time of each year that I begin to ponder the meaning of Christmas.

For Christians, I understand that Christmas is a cornerstone celebration of their faith. For me, even though raised a Christian, I know I struggled to relate to Christmas in the same meaningful way.

As a child, Christmas seemed to me to be the one day of the year I could hope for my family to get along and be happy together, but each year I was sorely disappointed.

When I began working, I started to feel that Christmas was the focus of the working year, something to look forward to, a break from my less than perfect job, something that helped keep me and probably the masses happy.

Then my own family came along. The pressure I put on my childhood family for the 'perfect day' I neatly transferred to my own performance at Christmas and

although I came close a few times, I never felt like I really pulled it off.

I laughed when a colleague's mum said to me, "I don't like Christmas. It feels like a test you are never going to pass." It summed up my feelings from those times perfectly.

Eventually I realised that Christmas was never going to be fun for me until I took a different approach. Rather than follow traditions I didn't understand, succumb to commercial pressures I didn't buy into, cook food I didn't like, or spend money on things that would shortly end up as landfill, I now love Christmas.

I love that almost all the shops close. I love that people spend time with loved ones. I love that many good-hearted people volunteer to cook and care for people who don't have families. And I love that this time of the year provides the opportunity for all of us, of all persuasions, to reflect upon what we have done over the past twelve months, taking a moment to pause and perhaps reset our compasses for the days that lie ahead.

Deloraine writers group

ALL ASPECTS of writing are discussed at the Deloraine Writer's Group meetings which are held at Deloraine House in Emu Bay Road, Deloraine.

Those attending are encouraged to bring excerpts of their own short stories, novels, plays or poetry to read to the group for positive feedback.

Over the past few months topics discussed have ranged from how judges rate poetry and short story competitions, writing dialogue and three

dimensional characters. At a recent meeting, the group used fairy tales to tell the stories from a different character's point of view.

The coordinator, Wendy Laing, said that new members are welcome to attend the meetings which run from 12 noon to 2.00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month.

More information about the group can be found in the Meander Valley Community Directory or visit the website www.delorainewritersgroup.weebly.com.



Antonia Howarth-Wass, Wendy Laing and Ken Reid

link for everyone, whether it be about day to day activities by groups or individuals, forthcoming events, local personalities or articles by local journalists. All community groups and individuals have the opportunity to contribute or make editorial comment.

We know community safety goes beyond crime, road sense and street lighting. It flows from our awareness of others, a simple greeting to people we meet, keeping an eye on vulnerable neighbours, getting involved in community projects. The *Meander Valley Gazette* does all this and more.

The *Gazette* is a really professionally produced community newspaper, run by volunteers who are clearly passionate about community building. It is a wonderful promotional tool for the Meander Valley and a monthly reminder of how vibrant and caring this community is.

Connected communities are safe communities, so well done and thank you.

Michael O'Reilly
Committee Member
Meander Valley Community Safety Group

In response to Mr Flowers' submission to the November edition of 'Letters In', Council would like to provide the following information:

The bridge constructed on Big Den Road at Mole Creek provides access to more than one property. It is a single

lane concrete structure that complies with Australian Standards and is suitable for agricultural vehicle use. The standard formwork required for this 15 metre long bridge, was similar to that of other bridges constructed by the contractor immediately after the June flood which enabled this bridge to be replaced quickly. The Liena bridge is 60 metres in length comprising three spans and will have a total project cost of \$1.2m. Due to the ongoing wet weather creating difficult conditions for bridge reconstruction, Council's contractor has experienced significant delays on a number of other projects in the region and this has unfortunately affected construction timeframes for the bridge at Liena. Importantly, the new Liena bridge will be designed so it is less vulnerable to future flood events of the scale that destroyed the old timber bridge. We understand that Liena residents face inconvenience until the new bridge is in place and appreciate their ongoing patience.

Meander Valley Council

THE 2016 Deloraine Craft Fair was a huge success. As (The Bridge), I performed at the Little Laneway Fringe Festival on the weekend.

I'd like to thank the hosts of the Fringe Fest, Seppentfels and the Empire Hotel, the organisers of the Craft Fair and all the wonderful volunteers.

A.R. Trounson - Needles

Letters In...

I SAW THE letter that Ron Flowers sent in, then I see that Pitts Lane and Liffey Falls are getting a new bridge.

Liena has been promised a bridge to be finished at the end of December, now we find out that the council hasn't even signed off on it, no company knows who got the contract and with bushfire season approaching, residents of Liena are left in the dark as to how to escape a bushfire that could potentially come from Mole Creek.

With Old Gads Hill Rd closed, and the road to Cradle Mountain closed, how are the people of Liena supposed to escape?

We have a pregnant lady in Liena. If anything happened to any resident, how will an ambulance get to us?

Where is the duty of care of the council toward rate paying

residents? The Meander Council does not care about Liena or its residents, despite people like Ron Flowers and other residents getting on their backs.

Kat Headford

(Since receiving this letter the Cradle Mt road has re-opened: Editor)

I WRITE ON behalf of the Meander Valley Safety Group and wish to express the thanks and appreciation of everyone involved with our Group for the support and recognition that the *Meander Valley Gazette* gives to all aspects of community life in the Meander Valley.

Whilst we have a liaison role with Council regarding issues affecting Community Safety, we have come to recognise the importance of people living and working together. This is where the *Meander Valley Gazette* serves as an important

ADVERTISEMENT

Guy Barnett MP
State Liberal Member for Lyons
Minister for Resources
Minister for Building and Construction

Warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Please contact my office at
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Liberal Party of Tasmania

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EST. 2013

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On a glorious spring Saturday, Lizzie Dunne, aged 8 of Deloraine, takes aim at the Deloraine Show.

Photo by: Mike Moores

Deloraine Show celebrates 70 years of family fun

By David Claridge

FOR SEVENTY years the Deloraine Show has been bringing people to the area to have fun and enjoy some really good food.

This year was no exception. There was a great range of things to do, from archery and riding in giant zorb balls to seeing prize winning cattle and demonstrations.

Liz Walker, activity committee coordinator for the show, said that over the years the show had only been cancelled once due to a polio outbreak, but that was

a long time ago.

"It's the kind of show I would love to see people from Launceston and Devonport come to, because it has a different atmosphere to a city show.

"We don't have the side shows, so it is a cheaper alternative for families because there are a lot of free activities.

"The families can relax with the mountains as the backdrop," said Liz.

Some people might have thought they travelled back in time. Men and women in armour, carrying swords

could be seen around the show, often giving demonstrations and letting people have a go at sword fighting.

Jessica Bramich of Golden Valley was one of the many people who brought their children along to enjoy the festivities.

"The kids have had an absolutely great day," she said.

"They enjoyed the zorb balls and the hot potatoes the most.

"We come every year, we love it."

The Deloraine locals who volunteered, demonstrated

ed once again why they are known as gentle and caring people. Friendly ushers guided vehicles to parking spaces while families directed seemingly lost visitors to various parts of the show.

Facepainter, Lisa Bowman, of Fancy Faces Entertainment, was busy throughout the day, helping to give many children their favourite character look.

"Spiderman and Frozen were the most popular today for face painting," she said.

"We love coming to Deloraine. It's got a nice vibe and it's laid back."



Learn to Swim

THE ANNUAL Learn-to-Swim programme, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Deloraine, will be held from Monday 9th to Friday 20th January, 2017.

Registration Day will be Tuesday 3rd January, from 10.00a.m. All sessions will be held at the Deloraine Municipal Pool. Children must be 5 years of age to participate in this programme.

Further details can be obtained from Tony Wadley, Youth Service Director, on phone 0427 622 169.

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Distaff spins a good yarn

By Lorraine Clarke

THE 7TH JANUARY, following the 12 days of Christmas, was jocularly known to our not-so-distant ancestors as St Distaff's Day, when women resumed their essential work of spinning and weaving fibre after the holidays.

The distaff is a wooden rod onto which raw combed fleece is loosely wound and tied. This was tucked under an arm or into a belt, freeing the spinner to wander about tending sheep or children while profitably using her time, drawing wool from the distaff onto her portable drop spindle to create the yarn essential for clothing her family.

All cloth ever made was



Detail from a beautifully carved spinning wheel made by Tasmanian wheel maker, Cecil Eyre.

first spun in this way until the spinning wheel was invented about 1,000 years ago.

Many peasant cultures still spin all their fibre requirements by hand with this simple wooden equipment.

Like fibre workers worldwide, Meander Valley's spinners, weavers and dyers celebrate this occasion annually, for an enjoyable day of spinning as a convivial group.

They will meet on Saturday 7th January 2017 at 10.00 a.m. under the big oaks on Westbury's Village Green, where this gentle craft can be observed just as it has been practiced for centuries.



Despite the blustery conditions around 4,000 people attended Pearn's Steam World 'Steam Up' over the long weekend in November. The miniature steam train rides proved as popular as ever, transporting people around the perimeter of the grounds. See story on Page 1. Photo by: Mike Moores

Modern art milk machine

By David Claridge

HAGLEY FARM Primary School is unique in that it raises students in a farm-like environment. For one class, they got the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of farming and worked together as a team to achieve something remarkable, a Picasso Cow.

According to Dairy Australia's website, Picasso Cows is a program which helps school children learn about the dairy industry and the health and nutrition benefits of dairy foods as part of a balanced diet.

Class 5/6 Oswin started

with the cow body and spent around eight weeks to get the final product.

Solomon Clarke of Hadspen was one of the students who worked on the cow.

"We had a lot of fun working on it, painting it was probably the best part though," he explained.

"Something I learned was that cow products are 50 per cent of people's main diet.

"The hardest part of the whole process was choosing the name as the boys wanted to call it Wezley and the girls wanted to call it Frankie.

Acting Advanced Skills Teacher and Environment Centre Teacher, Christine

Johns, shared that this was the third-time Hagley Farm School had participated in the program.

"The idea is to get the cows into the classrooms and getting the children thinking about what that means as far as farms and where their food comes from," she commented.

"They do a lot of research and incorporate that into the final product."

The classes efforts produced a very creative and informative final product. Wezley the cow didn't place in the Dairy Australia competition, which is surprising since it looks fantastic.

MEANDER VALLEY - GET INVOLVED

Life is a blank canvas

U3A IS holding its second art and mosaic exhibition in Deloraine Creative Studios from Saturday 3rd December to Sunday 18th December.

During each year, U3A offers various art groups to its members tutored by other U3A members who have skills they choose to share.

'Beyond Barriers' will feature a variety of art and mosaics from participants of these groups.

Curated by one of the art

tutors, Linda Ireland, the official opening of this exhibition is on Saturday 3rd December at 4.00 pm in Deloraine Creative Studios.

U3A is about getting together and learning in a friendly, social and supportive group and welcomes new members.

For more information contact Marg Leedham on 0409 892 462, Mel Dennison on 0416 024 024 or you can email meandervalleyu3a@gmail.com.

How will it end? In Tiers?

THE WESTERN Tiers Film Society (WTFS) will screen "Youth" on Saturday, 10th December at 7.30pm, Little Theatre, Deloraine.

Two lifelong friends have different ideas about how to spend what remains of their lives.

They're staying in a hotel with Fred's daughter, Lena, who's been abandoned by her husband for a younger woman.

The mood of resigned melancholy is offset by the commanding performances

of Caine and Keitel and by the film's sumptuous visuals and music.

The Western Tiers Film Society screens movies at the Little Theatre Cinema in the Meander Valley Performing Arts Centre, Deloraine, starting at 7:30p.m. sharp on the second Saturday of each month.

To join or find out more, you can email westerntiersfilmsociety@gmail.com or phone them on 0418 389 868.

Under the influence

A CONVERSATION about drugs in our community will take place at 3.00pm on Monday 12th December 2016 in the Auditorium at Deloraine Community Complex.

It is for young people, parents, youth workers and interested community members.

Entry is free, refreshments are provided. RSVPS by Friday 9th December to 6393 5300 or mail@mvc.tas.gov.au. The event is convened by the Meander Valley Community Safety Group and supported by Tasmania Police and Youth, Family & Community Connections.

IN THE GARDEN WITH LORRAINE CLARKE

THE BALMY outdoor days of summer can be spoiled by annoying mosquitoes and biting flies.

Slathering toxic chemicals over every exposed limb is not a desirable option. Fortunately, there is a safe natural herbal solution that everyone can grow for themselves.

The chemical which cats find so irresistible in catnip, *nepetalactone*, is also a powerful insect repellent, although bees adore catnip flowers.

A few fresh leaves crushed and rubbed over the skin, repels those tormenting critters more effectively than

anything in a can. This has been proven in the lab as well as by practical application. Catnip oil has been used to protect cattle and horses from biting flies.

Catnip planted in the vegetable garden also helps to repel insect pests from crops.

It is a perennial which regrows every spring into a bushy, upright, grey-green plant covered by tiny scented white or lavender flowers for several months, producing lots of nectar.

Catnip reseeds itself easily, to delight cats, bees and gardeners alike.



Rub crushed Catnip leaves over the skin to repel annoying insects.

A lovely backdrop for yuletide songs



Abbey Beck, 12, Willow Hancock, 6, Hunter Hancock, 10, of Deloraine prepare for Carols by the River.

Photo by: Mike Moores

'CAROLS BY the River' usurps 'Carols by Candlelight' in Deloraine this year.

Taking place on 17th December, thus starting earlier than in the past, the 7.00pm to 8.30pm programme of singers, speakers and community carolling will be left with too much daylight for candles to have much impact.

Besides performing, Amelia Reynolds, Will Kelly, school choirs and other local musicians will lead the community sing-along of all the favourite Christmas carols.

Dan Richie is there to remind us of what Christmas is really all about, with members of Kids' Club enacting a nativity play.

Happening at the Rotunda near the Meander River in Deloraine, the family event starts with a barbecue at 6.00pm, once again, as the Combined Christian Churches of Deloraine's Christmas gift to the community.

Bring along a chair, a rug or even a picnic to 'Carols by the River'. For more details please contact John Phelps on 6362 4488.

Celebrating the true meaning of Christmas

THE WESTBURY Uniting Church Parish is holding a Community Christmas Eve Service beginning at 7:30 on Saturday, 24th December.

The Service will consist of Christmas carols, offerings by the Meander Valley Choir, a dramatisation of the

Christmas story and children's action songs.

It will also include a memorial candle-lighting segment to remember those family members and friends who have passed away.

An offering on the night will support The Christmas

Bowl Appeal.

Everyone is welcome to come along and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

For further details please contact Val Gibson (0407 537 615), Rob Clarke (0428 600 109) or Marilyn Page (0437 840 115).

Chorale to sing the Messiah

THE DON Chorale will again perform Handel's Messiah in Gallery 9, West Barrack Street, Deloraine on the 10th December 2016 at 3.00pm.

The orchestra will comprise members of Hobart's Boa Vista Strings from the Friends' School and Launceston's Camerata Obscura.

All will be directed from the piano by Kent Furmage.

Featured soloists will be soprano, Lois Evans; contralto, Leonie Gryta; and from the deep south, tenor John Maer and Bass Brett Budgeon.

Tickets are available at the door. Adults \$20.00, concession \$15.00.

Moggies in need of a mansion

By Sara Fawcett

MANY PEOPLE would be aware of opportunities to foster dogs and puppies. But did you know you may also foster or sponsor cats?

Longford's JustCats Tasmania, a not-for-profit rescue organisation which first opened in August 2012, provides just that opportunity.

JustCats' mission is to provide shelter, de-sexing, vaccination and micro-chip-



ping of unwanted cats before placing them up for adoption.

Since their opening, they have had over a thousand cats adopted, with many more adult cats and kittens currently needing foster homes.

These numbers may seem amazing, but apparently

many of us have no idea just how many cats are unwanted.

JustCats Chudleigh supporter, Estelle Kenyan, highlights this, "We are on acreage and our horse paddock hides myriads of animals. During the last six years, we have rescued a total of sixteen kittens and two proper feral cats."

Estelle and her daughters have given most of these to JustCats, taking on the care of only some themselves.

However, not all the cats rescued are feral. Some were unwanted cats that have not

been desexed, resulting in many kittens.

Another primary goal for JustCats is to help educate the public on the importance of de-sexing these felines to prevent the occurrence of unwanted kittens.

As the organisation's facilities are frequently stretched to the limit just rescuing these animals, JustCats seeks community help with fostering or sponsoring them.

To this end, JustCats will be holding a Cats and Kittens Expo on 4th December.

Pedigree cats and their breeders will be present to share information about various breeds.

Felines needing new homes will also be on display and this will be a great opportunity to find out how to help JustCats through adoption, fostering or sponsorship.

The Expo will be held at Esk Lyn Road, Longford, along Pateena Road.

Visit JustCats' social media page at www.facebook.com/justcatstasmania/ for further information.

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State Member for Lyons

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Authorised by REBECCA WHITE, Parliament House, Hobart



Season's Greetings!

May it be a joyous time with family & friends



Happy and Safe Christmas & New Year



Greg Hall, MLC Independent Member for Western Tiers P.O. Box 361 Deloraine TAS 7304 Office phone: 6362 6500 Mobile: 0418 132 997 Email: greg.hall@parliament.tas.gov.au

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Devonshire Tea and quality quilts

Hammish, Rose and Yvette Gilligan of Longford enjoying Quilts in the Garden.

Photo by: Mike Moores

By David Claridge

FANS OF gardening and quilting were given a rare treat, with numerous quilts on display in a beautiful garden, with the money raised going to a worthy cause.

About three hundred peo-

ple braved the elements on a wet November weekend at the Hawthorn Villa Stables in Carrick to attend the fourth 'Quilts in the Garden'.

Event organiser, Nicole Pearce said that the event is about raising money and awareness for Multiple

Sclerosis (MS).

"We originally started the event as one of the quilting ladies in my mother's quilting group has MS," she said.

"Over the years, including this year, we have raised about \$13,000.

"It's a lovely event for a great weekend and to help get more awareness happening."

The mud brick stables

accommodation on the property, were utilised to display many of the quilts and an inviting indoor café kept people out of the elements.

"It was a crazy weekend weather-wise so we couldn't hang the quilts all around the garden like we usually do."

"Garden and quilt lovers still turned up to support us which was fantastic,"

Mrs Pearce commented. An extra interest on the Saturday were the wonderful vintage cars displayed by Chester.

Various quilts were on display by the many creative people involved with the Devon Patchworkers and Quilters group, including traditional and modern, patchworks, as well as silk embroidering.



Sarah Johnson, Jenny How, Betty Richards, and Margo How.

Ye Olde Railway Op Shop Volunteers' Celebration

Story and photo by Hayley Manning

A MOLE Creek pioneer celebrates 30 years' of service in what could arguably be the tiniest op shop sitting on a train platform in Tasmania.

Founding member, the late Enid Miles, and Ms Betty Richards of Mole Creek, saw the potential to transform the former weatherboard and tin railway building into an op shop when it became vacant in 1985.

The building was leased from Australian National Railways for 10 cents per annum until it was sold to the Meander Valley Council in 1986.

Today, the council rate is a token \$1.00 per annum, with a stipulation the building is to be used for charitable

purposes only.

Ms Richards reflects on her 'long-service' in the shop and why she has stayed committed when so many others have dropped out.

"Just loving people; it feels good helping people...it's surprising the people you meet," Ms Richards said.

Ye Olde Railway Op Shop proceeds support the Mole Creek Swimming Pool, Deloraine Hospital Auxiliary and Deloraine Aged Care.

"We always get a nice thank you letter," Ms Richards said.

The Mole Creek line was opened in April, 1890 and was used to transport everything from passengers, parcels, post, potatoes, pulp and logs until its closure in 1985.

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VALLEY VIEWS



Mayor's Message

As we head into the warmer weather, Meander Valley has come alive with an array of events leading up to Christmas. I have had the pleasure of being out and about in the community attending both the Westbury and Deloraine Agricultural Shows.

This year, there were some impressive milestones with the Westbury and Deloraine Shows celebrating 153 years and 70 years respectively. These shows have continued to grow, strengthening community ties and providing an opportunity for all of us to reconnect with our rural heritage.

Once again, a special thanks must go to the volunteers that work so hard during the shows and throughout the year. They guide us to carparks, they give us directions and they shepherd lost children. These events do not happen without the committed members of the show societies.

At the November meeting, Council committed to undertake the next stage of the Hadspen Urban Growth Area Project. This next stage will involve significant

engineering assessments required to determine the future sewerage, water and electricity required for the expansion of Hadspen.

Without the facilitating role of Council, multiple landowners would find it difficult to determine the infrastructure costs associated with developments such as this. Council's input provides some degree of certainty that determines a way forward and maintains momentum on the Project.

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank all residents for their ongoing support. The bushfires and flooding have tested our resolve this year and the ongoing recovery relies heavily on the strength of our community.

The networks of support that I have seen in the wake of these weather events have made me feel incredibly humbled and proud.

I wish all of you an enjoyable Christmas break and remember to stay safe.

Mayor, Craig Perkins

Playspace Back On Track

Construction of the Natural Playspace at Prospect Vale Park is again underway. The project has been significantly delayed due to the wet weather. The site must be dry enough for heavy machinery before work can recommence.

This is Council's first natural playspace and it will include a number of exciting elements that children of all ages can experience.

Climbing walls, balancing beams, a sand pit and a water feature have all been incorporated into



Townscapes, Reserves and Parks Special Committee (TRAP)

Council is seeking a representative from the community to be part of this special committee that currently meets on the third Wednesday of every second month at Council Offices, 26 Lyall Street, Westbury at 5:30pm.

The Committee consists of 3 Councillors, 3 Council officers and a number of community representatives.

the space that is designed to encourage children to explore and stretch their limits.

One of the project's landmark moments, a sandstone climbing wall feature has been successfully cut to size and Council is working with the contractors to transport the wall to the site and lower it into position using a crane.

Contractors are scheduled to be back on site in early December with a view to complete the play space for Christmas.

The role of the TRAP is to:

- Advise Council on the development of townscapes, reserves and parks.
- Monitor the maintenance and facilitate the improvement of townscapes, reserves and parks
- Consult with the community regarding the development of townscapes, reserves and parks

Please mail expressions of interest to Patrick Gambles, PO Box 102, Westbury, 7303 or patrick.gambles@mvc.tas.gov.au. For enquiries, call 6393 5334



Womens League Gains Momentum

Meander Valley Council's Recreation Co-ordinator was present at the Female Football Forum which was attended by AFL Women's competition draftees, Moanna Hope, Jess Wuetchner and Brittany Gibson (pictured).

The AFL is expecting massive growth in female football over the next 3 years as the new AFL women's competition begins.

It is expected that female football will grow in the Meander Valley to include more than 100 players in 2017 across all levels including Auskick, juniors, youth and seniors. Prospect Hawks Football Club was represented at the forum and the big development was the consensus to move to establish participation and talent pathways for senior women's football in 2017.



On Target for Top Competition

It was competition time for Darts enthusiasts during November as Meander Valley was honoured to host the Seventh 25s and Under Australian Darts Championships.

Held at the Westbury Sports Centre, competition was intense with approximately 60 players taking part over the week-long event. Given the popularity of

this traditionally English sport, the historic town of Westbury provided a fitting backdrop with its hedges, village green and British style establishments.

As a highly professional sport, or as a fun game played at the local pub, darts remains a very popular game in Tasmania. An advanced game of skill, playing darts assists in the

development of numeracy and hand eye coordination with some states introducing Darts into Schools Programs which have proven to be very successful.

All competitors can be proud of their achievements and throughout the competition the sportsmanship and teamwork exhibited was a credit to all players involved.

Plan to protect what matters most in an emergency

Emergencies don't just include major natural disasters like bushfires, earthquakes or floods.

A fall at home that results in an unexpected hospital stay, a car accident or serious illness can also cause significant disruption and add stress to your life.

You can reduce the impact of emergencies big and small, by being prepared.

While emergency services do all they can to help, the person most responsible for your wellbeing before, during and after an emergency is You.

If you're wondering how to prepare for a disaster, Get Red Cross' RediPlan. This disaster preparedness guide is freely available online. It shows you and your family how to create a personalised emergency plan in just four simple steps.

www.redcross.org.au/ (search RediPlan)

Building Laws set to change

From January 1, 2017, Tasmania will have new laws regulating building and plumbing work.

All plumbing, building and demolition approvals will be granted based on the level of risk associated with the work.

Work that is defined as High Risk will be classified as Permit work and will require owners to apply for a Council permit.

Medium risk work will be classified as Notifiable work

if it is likely to comply with the Act. Owners will need to engage a private building surveyor to accurately assess the risk associated with the proposed project and the surveyor will be required to notify Council at the commencement and completion of the work.

For medium risk plumbing work, the Council plumbing surveyor will grant approval for work to commence.

Low risk work will be classified as Category 1 or 2.

Category 2 work owners are not required to obtain a permit or engage a surveyor,

however, the work must be carried out by a licensed builder or plumber.

This also applies to Category 1 work, however the work may be carried out by an owner, competent person as well as a licensed builder or plumber.

Although some building work will no longer need building permits from Council they may still require Planning Permits.

Please contact Council's planning department for assistance on (03) 6393 5320 or mail@mvc.tas.gov.au.

Competitors Gear Up for Boxing Day



Once again, cyclists will descend on Westbury for the Criterium.

Held on Boxing Day on Monday 26 December the Westbury Criterium forms part of the Christmas Carnival Series held annually across Northern Tasmania.

This year will see the veteran's and women's criterium as well as the traditional men's elite races.

Residents are reminded that road closures will be in place through the duration of the event and whilst Council understands the inconvenience incurred, we hope that this is outweighed by the benefits the event brings by way of patronage

and opportunity to promote the town.

Road closures will be in place from 3pm - 7pm and will be advertised on Council's website and in the Examiner Newspaper on Monday 19 and Saturday 24 December ahead of the event.

If you have any questions regarding the road closures, please contact Council on 6393 5300.

Keep your best friend safe this bushfire season

It may not feel like it, but summer is just around the corner. If you live near bush or grassland you need to prepare for the safety of your pets, as well as yourselves.

Disasters tend to strike quickly and pet owners often have to evacuate their properties in a hurry, leaving vulnerable pets and animals behind. This causes a great deal of anguish to owners.

Here are just three simple things you can do NOW to help keep your pet safe:

1. Make sure your pet is microchipped or that its tags are up to date and securely fastened. These will be its ticket home if it gets lost.



2. Have a current photo of your pet that you can easily access (eg. on your smartphone or tablet).

3. Evacuating your pets and animals early to a safe place offers the best chance of protection. Organise a Pet Pal (friend or relative) who can accommodate them in the short term if you are affected by an emergency event.

More practical ideas on managing your pet in a fire emergency can be viewed at www.meander.tas.gov.au

Meander Valley Community Bushfire Forum

Meander Valley Council is facilitating a Community Bushfire Forum for all residents, featuring representatives from Tasmania Fire Service to discuss bushfire preparedness for the upcoming 2016/2017 season. The forum will be held:

Wednesday 21 December at 7pm
Deloraine Community Complex Auditorium,
Alveston Drive

All members of the Meander Valley Community are welcome to attend. Light refreshments provided. For further information please contact Beth Williams beth.williams@mvc.tas.gov.au or phone 6393 5312.

Jimmy Possum
History & Mystery

EXHIBITION
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www.greatwesterntiers.net.au

Local Markets

Deloraine Market
First Saturday of the month
Showgrounds,
Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine

Liffey Market
Second Saturday of the month
Old Liffey School,
1443 Liffey Road, Liffey

Mole Creek Market
Third Saturday of the month
Mole Creek Memorial Hall
Caveside Road, Mole Creek

Westbury Market
Third Saturday of the month
St Andrews Church
11 Lonsdale Promenade,
Westbury

Council Christmas Closure Dates

Council Offices 26 Lyall Street, Westbury

Closed from 1pm Friday 23 December 2016. Offices will re-open on Tuesday 3 January 2017.

Garbage & Recycling Collection Services

Scheduled collection days will not change. Please ensure your bins are out by 6am on your nominated collection day.

Refuse Disposal Sites & Transfer Stations

Westbury and Deloraine Refuse Disposal Sites and Mole Creek Transfer Station will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Works Departments

Council's works crews will be operating a reduced crew from 12pm Thursday 22 December 2016 until 7.30am 16 January 2017.

Council Contacts

General Enquiries & Animal Control 6393 5300

Emergency Maintenance

Deloraine, Mole Creek, Chudleigh and areas west of Exton 0407 754 031
Westbury, Prospect Vale and areas east of Exton 0407 706 245

General Enquiries

Phone 6393 5300
Mail PO Box 102 Westbury Tasmania 7303
Email mail@mvc.tas.gov.au

Customer Service Office

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5pm
26 Lyall Street Westbury Tasmania 7303

[meandervalleycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/meandervalleycouncil)
www.meander.tas.gov.au



THE TASMANIAN Craft Fair proved, once again, it was alive and kicking with a fascinating range of new exhibitors that included products such as the PeacePods - funeral caskets owned and designed by Mea Souris; made of environmentally friendly recycled paper and plywood.

Fashioned like a round tube they certainly do not evoke images of death, but rather draw one in to touch them.

"There is no affection for a coffin. But these PeacePods are more calming and evoke a serene feeling," stated Mea. "There is no cringe factor."

A celebrant for about 40 years, she has always felt that funerals should be more positive; leaving loved ones with a better feeling.

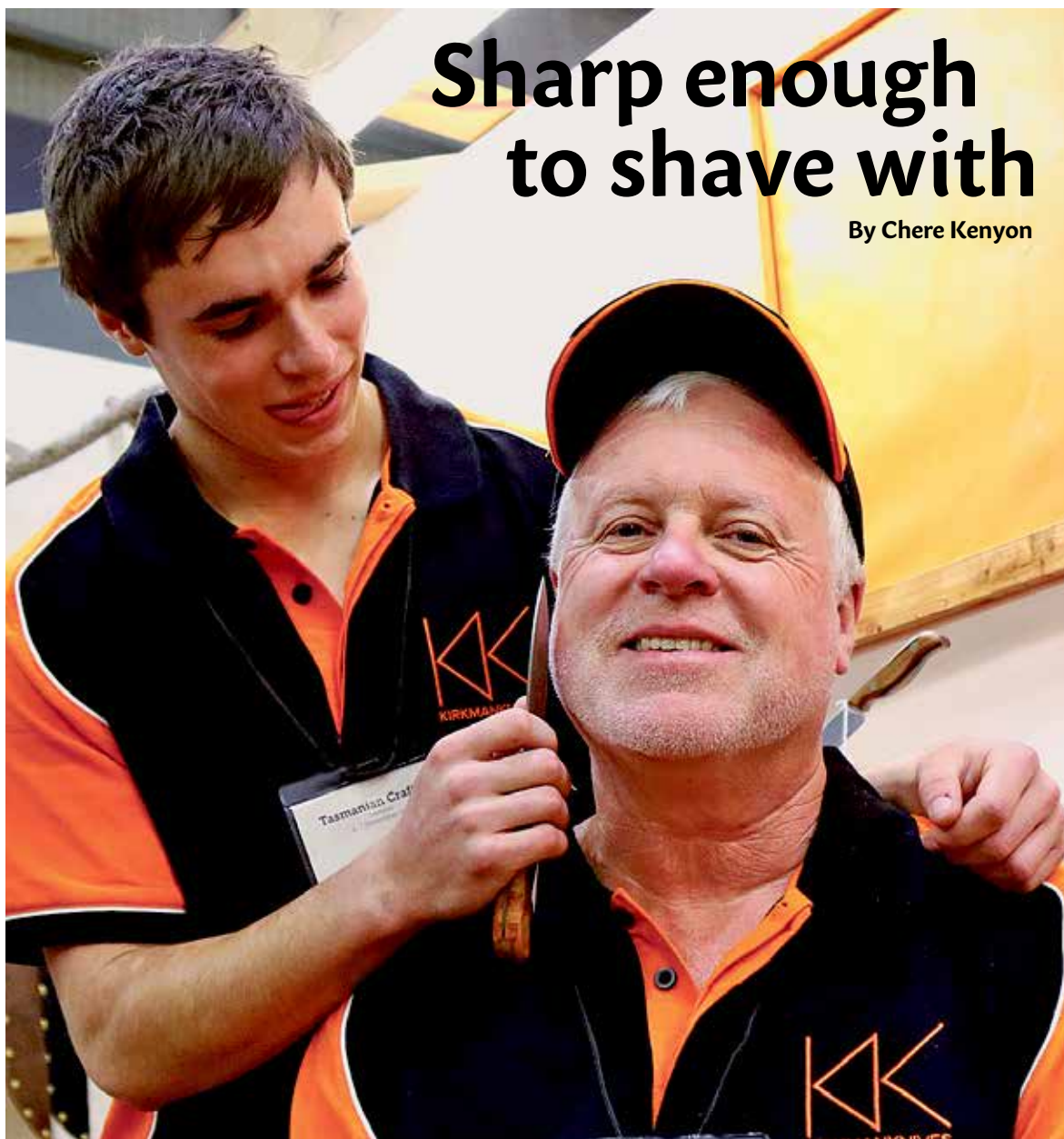
Ideal to order in advance, "you can decorate or paint [the Pods] the colours you want... [and] use calligraphy or collage".

"They can have gold leaf or poems. The sky is the limit," she added.

It means you can involve yourself in the process of enhancing your Pod as much, or as little, as you wish. Or your family or friends could decorate it, making it more meaningful.

Another intriguing exhibitor was Myles Kirkman, an emerging designer of knives who is only 18 years of age.

Myles said, "Three years ago, in the shed one day,



Deloraine knifemaker Myles Kirkman gives his dad Steve a shave with one of his quality knives.

I whittled wood into a knife and Dad suggested I make a real knife."

What began as a school

project is now an exciting business opportunity of selling his knives at Elemental Artspace in Delo-

raine, All Goods in Launceston, Devonport and the Northern Territory.

Myles is also conscious

of not wasting our precious resources, while supporting local businesses.

"We use all locally sourced Tasmanian timbers for the knife handles. One person makes guitars and we get offcuts from him. Then offcuts from the knives are used to make wooden keyrings," he shared.

An old favourite, Sheffield's World of Marbles was once again wowing audiences with artisan Jim Mitchell firing up a burner to craft marbles onsite.

Taking a clear rod of glass, he applied decorations, twisted and covered it with black glass; melting it into blends which would become the marble.

Jan Clay, who runs the 12-year-old business, creates glass sculptures as well.

"We are the only shop in Australia to specialise in art glass marbles," he added.

In addition his son, Shasa Bolton, is its kinetic sculpture artist; interestingly extending their range of marble and glass artefacts.

You can contact each of the exhibitors for more information about their respective crafts.

Mea Souris via her website www.peacepod.net.

Myles Kirkman via www.kirkmanknives.com.

World of Marbles via www.worldofmarbles.com.au.

I WAS intrigued by the stunning fire images presented as a slide show at Winterfire.

Watching 'Old Flame', I felt like I was observing a dance, ancient, yet serenely beautiful. MVG caught up with photographer Robyn Adams to find out more...

Q. When and how did you develop an interest in photography?

I have always appreciated great photographic images. I became interested in low light photography in my late teens which led me to study photography at the Queensland College of Art. I was drawn to the variety of work in photojournalism and worked at that for a few years. My love of nature and landscapes led me to Aboriginal people and their culture & I have been a free spirit ever since.

My work as a remote area tour guide gave me access to some of Australia's best locations, even if I was too busy to shoot them.

Q. What do you want to say with your images?

The image needs to get attention by declaring, 'I am here'. When you know it's a photograph, the photographer can also say 'I am here'. The viewer looking upon the image detail can say, 'I see everything' so 'I am also here'. That's how I'd like it to go anyway.

Q. What makes a good picture stand out from the average?

Good pictures have great lighting! They are only recordings of reflected light after all, so it's important to bounce that light off an interesting subject or frame it deliberately as it falls upon a scene. I like simple image constructions which have a clear contrast; maybe light against the dark or a solid in a liquid, something smooth on a rough texture etc. The other quality always present in a good picture is, detail. A photo of a wombat is greatly improved if you can clearly see how thick and course its fur is.

Flaming Good

Interview by: Joanne Eisemann



Q. What led you to start taking pictures of fire?

I've looked at plenty of campfires and been mesmerised by all of them. Passionate photographers don't quit when the sun goes down! Digital cameras allow instant review of your image so I was able to make adjustments and tweak the settings and just generally experiment until I found a 'sweet spot' where the randomness of the flame started to make sense to my eyes.

Q. When you are taking pictures how much of it is instinctual and how much is planned?

Equal measures of both at different times. I have a plan which is, to follow my instincts. Having my tools clean, charged & packed is crucial but not as crucial as having the right tools in the first place. I sometimes revisit places that didn't work out & I usually have a plan for a re-shoot. Awareness of the weather (light), moon phases & tides as well as the seasonal cycles are

kept in mind & my instincts then work like a light diviner once I'm on location.

Q. How do you teach yourself to make better pictures?

Better photos happen faster if you understand the technical aspects of the behaviour of light on different surfaces and you can grasp the fundamental sections of your camera. Look at the work of others, ask questions. I often override my camera when it's telling me I can't take this photo. Fill your box with knowledge and then step out of the box!

Q. Where can people see examples or purchase your work?

I make photo cards and mounted prints. I also choreograph some of my work to music & project them as performance pieces.

Cards and prints are at Elemental Art Space in Deloraine. Or search Youtube for Robyn Adams and flame to see the 5 minute piece I showed at Winter Fire.

By Lorraine Clarke

HONEYBEES NOT only produce delectable honey and pollinate almost every fruit and vegetable we eat, they are also the barometer of our world's ecological health.

Planting for bees benefits our whole environment. We can plan a bee-friendly garden, streetscape or farm by sourcing seeds, plants or trees for the veggie patch, flower bed, backyard orchard, hedge or area of natives.

A single garden is insignificant in a beehive's 3,000 hectare foraging area, but a whole town filled with bee-friendly plants can play a major role in restoring the balance of nutrition for honeybees. Biodiversity and abundance are paramount. A packet of seed can produce hundreds of plants for a long floral display to delight us and feed the bees.

In the edible garden, berries and fruit trees yield blossom for bees in early spring, and luscious treats for us in summer and autumn. Grow more! If space allows, surprisingly lovely flowers of overwintered vegetable (carrots, parsnips, brassicas, salsify, lettuce, radish, celery, leeks) provide abundant early-season nutrition for bees. Flowering herbs such as thyme, hyssop, rosemary, lemon balm and oregano are well-known bee magnets. Leafy herbs such as parsley and coriander can be allowed to bolt, feeding the bees and regenerating freely.

Our choice of flowering plants is important for optimum honeybee nutrition. Pollen is essential to bees as their only source of protein, but not all are equal nutritionally. Weed pollen is high in protein; over-zealous eradication



Photo by: Mike Moores

can deprive bees of essential supplies. Cutting weeds after flowering is best.

Rather than fussy modern hybrids, select bee-friendly flowers closer to their wild progenitors. Other countries cultivate these specifically for high yields of varietal honeys.

Lavender is a buzz of activity through its long flowering season. *Perovskia* and *Phacelia* are grown on broadacre scale in Europe as bee forage, and deserve to be popularised here. Catnip (a superior mosquito repellent) does not deter bees which cover it for several months. The blue and purple flower spikes of Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*) are irresistible to bees, and make a refreshing herbal tea.

Spikes of tiny florets opening progressively through a

season are especially useful. (*Liatris Spicata*, *Veronicastrum*, *Teucrium Hyrcanum*, *Eucomis*, *Eremurus* and *Echium*.)

Angelica, Queen Anne's Lace, Dill and other umbelliferous plants are a tempting landing pad for bees, and add to a garden's structural beauty. Allium, Salvia, Sedum, Echinacea, Aster, Coreopsis and Rudbeckia, all make an impressive autumn display.

Tasmanian sellers of seeds and plants for bee-friendly plantings are www.southernharvest.com.au and www.phoenixseeds.net.au.

Bee Friendly by Mark Leech, a local forester and beekeeper, is a superbly illustrated textbook on planting for bees and is downloadable from <https://rirdc.infoservices.com.au/items/12-014>.

Fiona Stocker, taking stock - A place in the Stockyard

TO CELEBRATE its 20th anniversary milestone in relation to its special place

in the Tasmanian farming landscape in 2014, Tasmanian Women in Agriculture (TWiA) commissioned author Fiona Stocker to write *A Place in the Stockyard*.

Featuring the achievements and stories of women who have helped change both their own lives and farming

careers, along with the culture of farming in Tasmania, the book is designed and produced by premier publisher, Tasmania Forty South.

Launched in November, it is available through TWiA's website: www.twia.org.au and at select Tasmanian bookshops, priced at \$40.00.

Beryl Honeybee, 2 weeks old, of Hawthorn Villa at Carrick.

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Meander Valley Gazette

Wishes our readers
Compliments of the Season

Many thanks you for
your continued support
throughout the Year.



Ros Young, from Tasmanian Walking Company receives the Eco Tourism award.

Photo courtesy of Tourism Industry Council Tasmania

Walking the right tracks

By David Claridge

HAGLEY BASED business, The Tasmanian Walking Company was recognised at last month's Tasmanian Tourism Awards, coming away with the Eco Tourism Award. Sales and Marketing Manager, Ros Young, said that they spend a lot of time in their business planning and looking at new technologies. "We also make sure we're staying true to the nature of Eco Tourism," she said.

"Most of our travellers are domestic. About eighty percent are from Australia, mainly from Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. Generally they visit the state to do a tour with us. Starting out with the Cradle Mountain huts walk thirty years ago, the business has thrived and since included the Bay of Fires lodge walk and the Wineglass Bay sail walk, finally becoming the Tasmanian Walking Company.

"I think one of the really great things about the company is that we are a strong team and we get some of the most fabulous guides," Ros said. "They're the ones that are with the guests face to face every day so we do what we can back at the office to support them, "It's really what they're doing with the guests whilst they're out on the track that makes the real difference."

Organic, sweet success

R. STEPHENS Tasmanian Honey of Mole Creek was presented as a Nominee in the prestigious Fonterra Australia Agriculture Award at the 2016 Community Achievement Awards on 5th November 2016 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart. The company was presented on stage by City of Hobart Deputy Lord Mayor, Ald Ron Christie, in front of 360 guests from across the State. The event celebrated

10 years of recognising community achievers and was hosted by Southern Cross Television Weatherman, Peter Murphy. R. Stephens Tasmanian Honey has achieved organic certification for their Golden Nectar Real Leatherwood Honey, which is recognised as one of the top 10 Tasmanian products. Their sales in Australia, USA, Japan and Lebanon have increased and demand now outweighs supply.



Linda Irwin of Deloraine, Maria Husen of Golden Valley, Nita Clarke & Karen Madge of Westbury

Pathway through the technospeak

FOUR LOVELY ladies from around the Valley have just completed an eleven week Computing Foundations course at Deloraine Online. "The course is run three times per year and helps people gain more confidence with their computers," says long time tutor Joanne Eisemann and adds "people often beat themselves up about not understanding, but it's like learning anything new, you need some basic concepts and

a bit of lingo before it's going to make sense." Student Maria Husen has been grappling with her computer for a few years. "It's the first time I've felt like I'm making any headway," she explains. "I like that we are learning in a small group," shares another student Karen Madge. "We are all at around the same level, so we are learning and bumbling along together." Participants attend a class

once per week for a couple of hours. If they have a laptop they can bring that along to use, otherwise there are plenty of centre computers to use. The course is run as a partnership with TasTAFE so a formal qualification can be gained if required. The course is offered at the Deloraine (6362 3537) and Mole Creek (6363 2030) Online Access Centres. Call to book a place for the next round.

RETAIL DIRECTORY

Advertising enquiries to: advertising@meandervalleygazette.com

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For info call Annie Robinson on 0419 134 946
artsdeloraine@gmail.com
 or join at Elemental Artspace

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Established January 1998



Meander Valley Online (Inc) actively supports the Meander Valley community by providing:

- 2 online Centres for internet & training in Deloraine and Mole Creek
- the publishing of the Meander Valley Gazette
- the sponsoring of this paper's Community Directory
- Technical IT Support valley-wide for homes & small business



Events Diary

Planning an event? Then make sure everyone knows about it. Simply email the details to editor@meandervalleygazette.com - remember to plan in advance so you don't miss out!

Date and Time	Event	Details
Every day in December 9.00am - 5.00pm	Jimmy Possum History & Mystery Exhibition	Deloraine & Districts Folk Museum, 98-100 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine
Friday 2nd December 3.00pm - 11.30pm	Carrick Park Pacing Club meeting	Carrick Park Pacing Club, East Street, Carrick Pacing race meeting with Santa attending & music till late
Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th Dec. 11.00am	Apex Club of Deloraine Annual Tractor Pull	Red Hills Apex Memorial Park, 525 Mole Creek Road, Red Hills For info: Danny Saltmarsh 0409 965 712
Saturday 3rd-Sunday 18th Dec. 10.00 - 4.00	U3A "Beyond Barriers" Art & Mosaic Exhibition	Deloraine Creative Studios Gallery, Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Official opening Saturday 3rd Dec. at 4.00pm
Saturday 3rd December 9.00am - 1.00pm	Deloraine Showground Market	Deloraine Showgrounds, Highland Lakes Road, Deloraine
Monday 5th December 12 noon	U3A Christmas Lunch	Function Centre, Westbury Showground A 60's theme Enquiries: meandervalleyu3a@gmail.com
Monday 5th December 12 noon - 2.00pm	Eating with Friends Christmas Lunch	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine \$5.00 Great meal with great company
Wednesday 7th December 10.30am - 1.30pm	Red Cross Food Redi Program 3rd week	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Create healthy meals on a budget Bookings essential
Friday 9th December 8.00pm	Old Time Dance	Deloraine Ex-Service Club, 12 West Church Street, Deloraine feat. Déjà vu Band \$8.00 includes Supper
Saturday 10th December 7.30pm	Western Tiers Film Society	Little Theatre, 2 Meander Valley Rd. Deloraine "Youth" France/Italy/Switzerland/UK Rated MA 15+
Sunday 11th December 2.00pm	Little Wise concert	Marakooopa Café amphitheatre \$15 prebooked or \$20.00 at the door 63635033
Monday 12th December 3.00pm - 4.45pm	Under the Influence	Auditorium, Deloraine Community Complex RSVP by 9th Dec to 63935300 or mail@mvc.ts.gov.au
Wednesday 14th December 10.30am - 1.30pm	Red Cross Food Redi Program 4th week	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Rd, Deloraine Create healthy meals on a budget Bookings essential
Thursday 15th December	Blokes Day out	Ben Lomond - Mountain Wildflowers Bookings required Ph: 6362 2678 Bring lunch, drink & coat
Friday 16th December 6.30pm	Christmas Steak Night	Deloraine Ex-Service Club, 12 West Church Street, Deloraine feat. Linda King Draw of Major Raffle \$15.00
Saturday 17th December 9.00am - 2.00pm	Westbury Market	Anglican Church Hall, 11 Lonsdale Promenade Westbury Ph: 6393 1417
Saturday 17th December	Mole Creek Market	Mole Creek Memorial Hall \$10 per table - for bookings and enquiries call Leanne on 0409 713 240
Saturday 17th December 6.00pm	Deloraine Christmas Carols	On the River Bank near Rotunda Fun & Games 6.00pm, Free Sausage Sizzle 6.30pm Carols start 7.00pm
Sunday 18th December 2.00pm	Nine lessons & Carols	St Marks Anglican Church, Deloraine More info: 0429 976 785
Saturday 24th December 6.00pm	Children's Mass	Church of the Holy Redeemer, Parsonage St, Deloraine Children welcome to dress up as shepherds or kings
Saturday 24th December 9.00pm	Vigil Mass	Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Meander Valley Rd, Westbury
Saturday 24th December 7.30pm	Community Christmas Eve Service	Westbury Uniting Church cnr. Dexter & William Streets, Westbury More info: Val Gibson 0407 537 615
Saturday 24th December 11.30pm	Midnight Communion	St Marks Anglican Church, Deloraine More info: 0429 976 785
Saturday 24th December 8.00pm	Christmas Eve Family Communion	St. Saviour's Anglican Church, Meander More info: 0429 976 785
Sunday 25th December 9.00am	Christmas Mass	Church of the Holy Redeemer, Parsonage St, Deloraine
Sunday 25th December 9.00am	Christmas Day Communion	St Marks Anglican Church, Deloraine More info: 0429 976 785
Tuesday 27th December 3.00pm-midnight	Carrick Park Pacing Club Meander Valley Cup	Carrick Park Pacing Club, East Street, Carrick Pacing race meeting with live band till late
Tuesday 3rd January from 10.00am	Rotary Club Learn to Swim Registration Day	Deloraine Municipal Pool - Children must be 5 years of age to participate Info: Tony Wadley 0427 622 169
Saturday 7th January 10:00am	St Distaff's Day celebration	Spinners weavers and dyers, Westbury Village Green
Monday 9th - 20th January	Rotary Club of Deloraine Learn to Swim	Deloraine Municipal Pool
Friday 13th January	Rotary Tertiary Scholarship Applications close	Written applications to Rotary Club of Deloraine Att: John Dare PO Box 85, Deloraine More Info: 0410 557 598
One Monday a month	Women on the move	A monthly social day for women visiting gardens, museums etc. Bookings required Libby 0400 622 461
2nd Monday of each month 1.30- 2.30pm	Grandparents & Others support group	Deloraine House, 112 Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Ph: Jess 1800 171 233
Every Tuesday 10.00am - 12.00pm	Hadspen Playgroup (during School Terms)	Uniting Church Community Centre, cnr Claire & Main Sts Hadspen Call Anna on 0423 939 304 for info
1st Wednesday of the month from 6.00pm	Mole Creek Photography & Visual Arts Group	Presbyterian Church Hall, Caveside Road, Mole Creek email Karen philipnkaren@bigpond.com
Every Wed f'night 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Prospect Youth Group 12-16 yrs - \$3.00	Community Centre, Primary School, Stanley St, Prospect Ph: Vicki Jordan 0400 155 690
Every Thursday 7.30pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Westbury For more information call Chris on 0437 355 401
Every Sunday 10.00am - 11.00am	Dragon Boating. Exp or Beg. All welcome	Meander River, Del. (near Swim Pool) Peter 0409 234 061

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SPORT

Westbury scores a bullseye

By Heather Summers

WESTBURY WAS the proud host of the U25 National Darts Titles this November. Teams from each state made their way to Westbury Sports Stadium for a great competition, with a friendly but competitive atmosphere.

Betty Hislop, Captain of the WA team, has played darts for 57 years, 46 as

President of Darts WA. She also fronted the biggest contingent to come to the nationals, 19 players in all, travelling the longest distance to take part. "We're all self-funded," she said, showing a great level of commitment to the sport, with many players regularly travelling 5-6 hours in order to take part in their local competitions as well.

Victorian coach, Terry King, praised the camaraderie between teams. "The competition's been great, everyone's friendly. There have been no sad faces, everyone picks each other up."

Captain of the Tasmanian womens team, Shelley How, was very pleased with how well her team played, commenting that the West-

bury venue was "absolutely brilliant," with a good turnout of local supporters.

The Tasmanian team showed great spirit as well as bringing a family vibe to the competition with several team members representing the same family, some being 4th generation players.

In an all WA showdown in the women's singles, Edwina

Dryden beat compatriot Kaitlan Brown. Victoria came first in the men's, with Sam Ballinger beating Tasmania's Simon Bryant.

The competition ended with the mixed drawn triples, where players from different states play on mixed teams - a great way to end the tournament after the friendly rivalry of the National Competition.

Aaron Ryder travelled all the way from Western Australia to compete in the National Darts Championship at Westbury.

Photo by: Mike Moores



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Dr Steve Mace & staff wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have supported us this year

We would like to advise we will be welcoming a Hygienist in 2017

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